

5. Risk and Protective Factors

Another way to assess substance abuse prevention need is to measure the prevalence of characteristics that have been shown to predict substance use. A high prevalence of these risk factors suggests a greater potential for developing substance abuse problems and hence, a greater need for prevention interventions.

In addition to measuring substance abuse consumption patterns among Arizona's 8th, 10th, and 12th grade students, the *Arizona Youth Survey* also measures a variety of risk and protective factors at an individual, family, school, and community level. These risk and protective factors are listed in Appendix E.

Risk Factors

Community Domain.

The percentage of youth reporting high levels of risk within the community domain varied by grade. For example, a larger percentage of 8th graders reported a belief that handguns were easily accessible than did 10th and 12th grader students while a higher percentage of 10th graders reported high community disorganization, transitions and mobility and norms that favor drug use; a higher percentage of 12th graders reported low neighborhood attachment and the perceived availability of drugs.

These findings could point to a need for differential interventions by grade level. The overall percentage of students by grade who reported these various risk factors was shockingly high. For example, over one-half of 12th graders reported a perception that they could access drugs and approximately 1 in 3 students across grade levels reported that they could access a handgun.

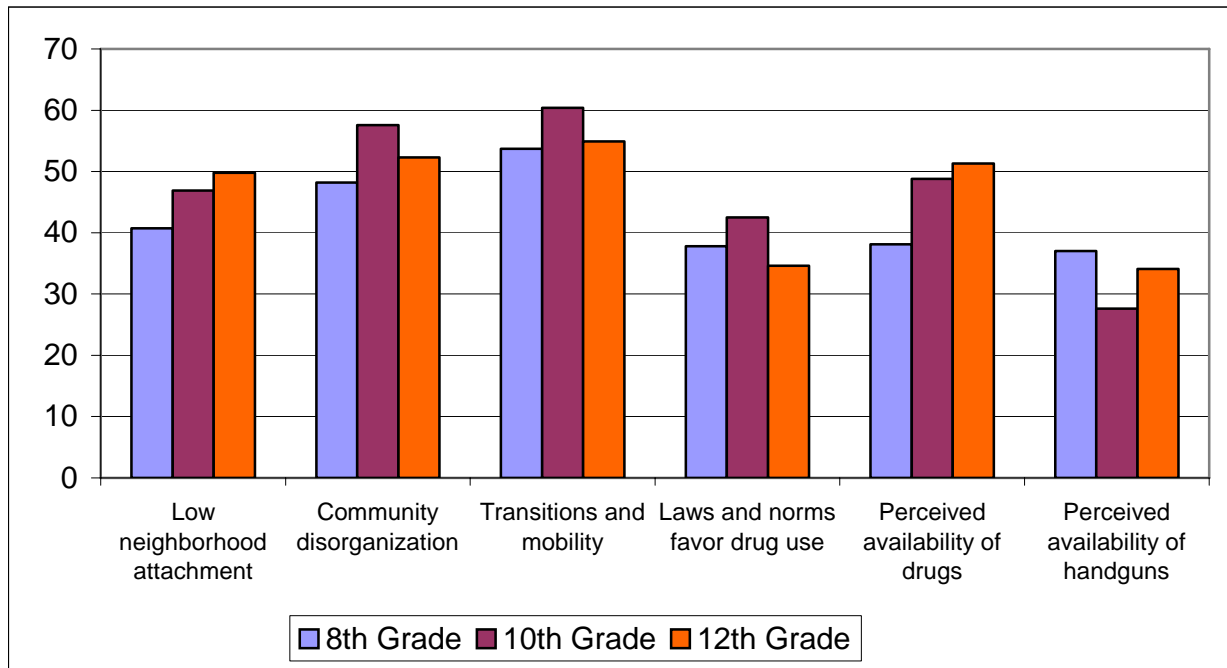
Youth reported high levels of transitions and mobility in all three grades, indicating a great deal of movement into and out of communities, which may help to explain the high percentage of students who reported low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization.

Table 5.1. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the Community Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Low neighborhood attachment	40.70	46.90	49.80
Community disorganization	48.20	57.60	52.30
Transitions and mobility	53.70	60.40	54.90
Laws and norms favor drug use	37.80	42.50	34.60
Perceived availability of drugs	38.10	48.80	51.30
Perceived availability of handguns	37.00	27.60	34.10

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each risk factor.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

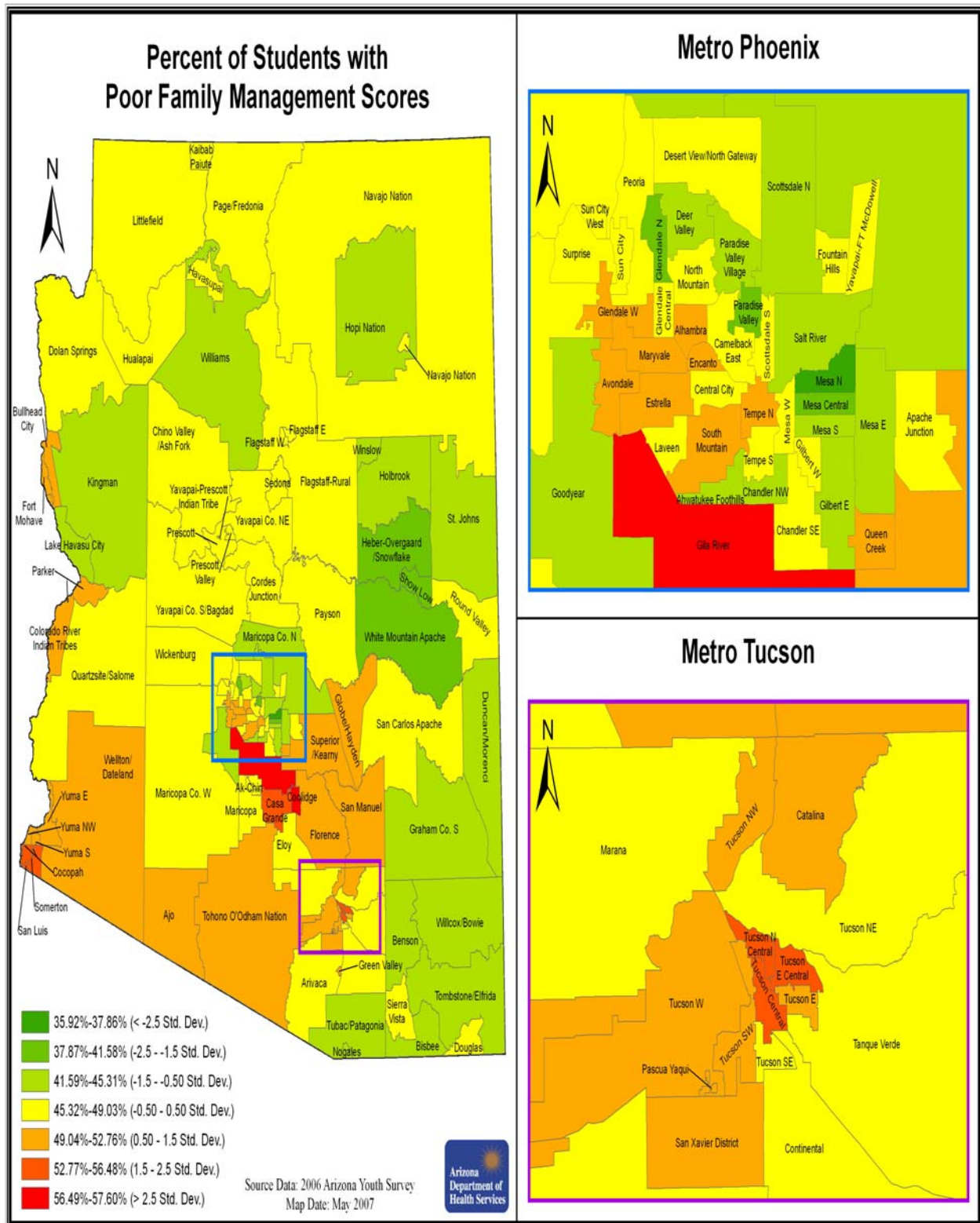
Figure 5.1. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the Community Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

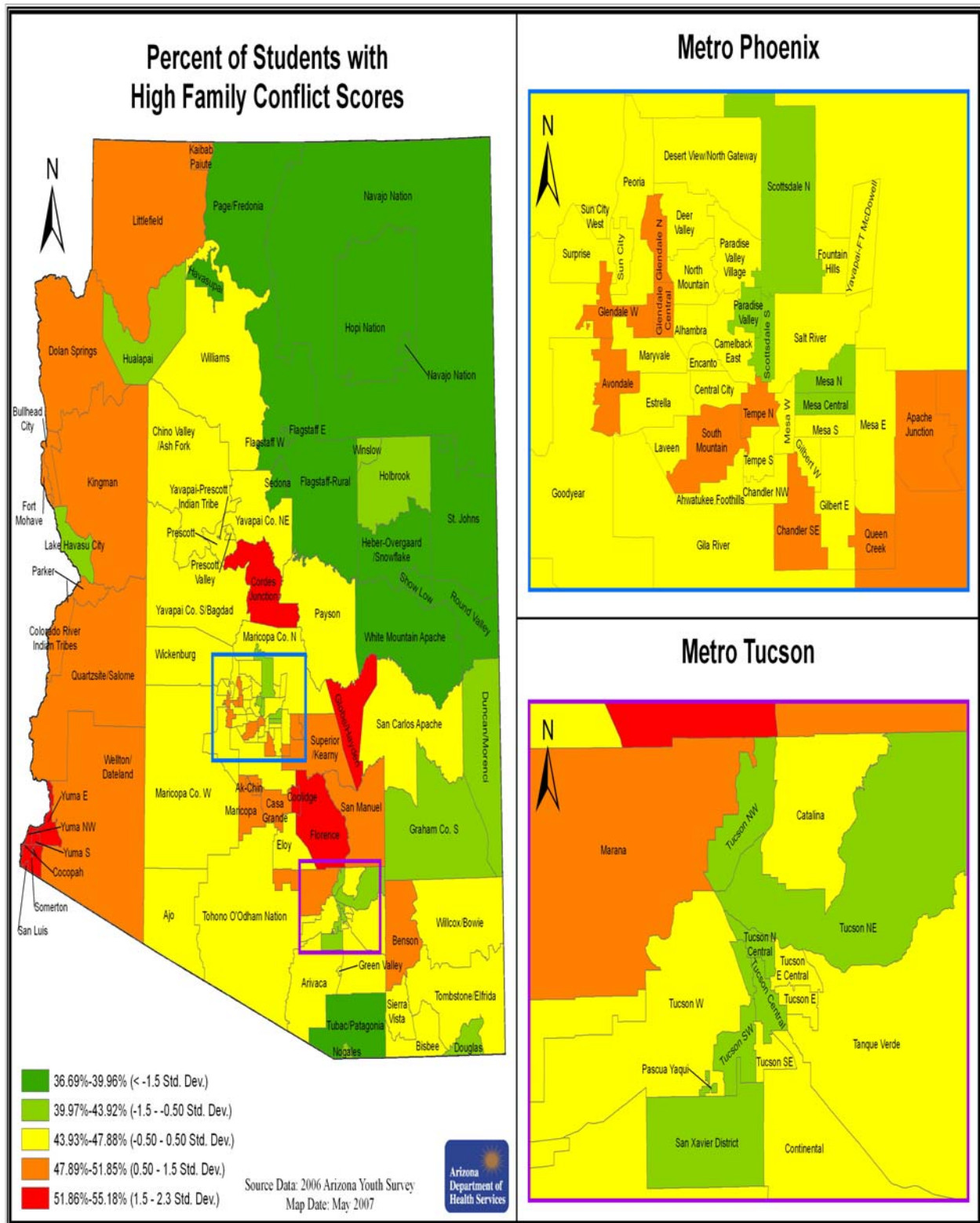
Family Domain.

The percentage of youth reporting high levels of risk within the family domain also varied by grade. For example, a larger percentage of 8th graders reported poor family management and family conflict but a higher percentage of 10th grade students reported a family history of antisocial behavior and parental attitudes that favor antisocial behavior and drug use. As was true for community risk factors, the overall percentage of students by grade who reported these various risk factors was surprising. For almost all risk factors, between 38% and 52% of students reported high levels of these risk factors.

Map 5.1.



Map 5.2.



Map 5.3.

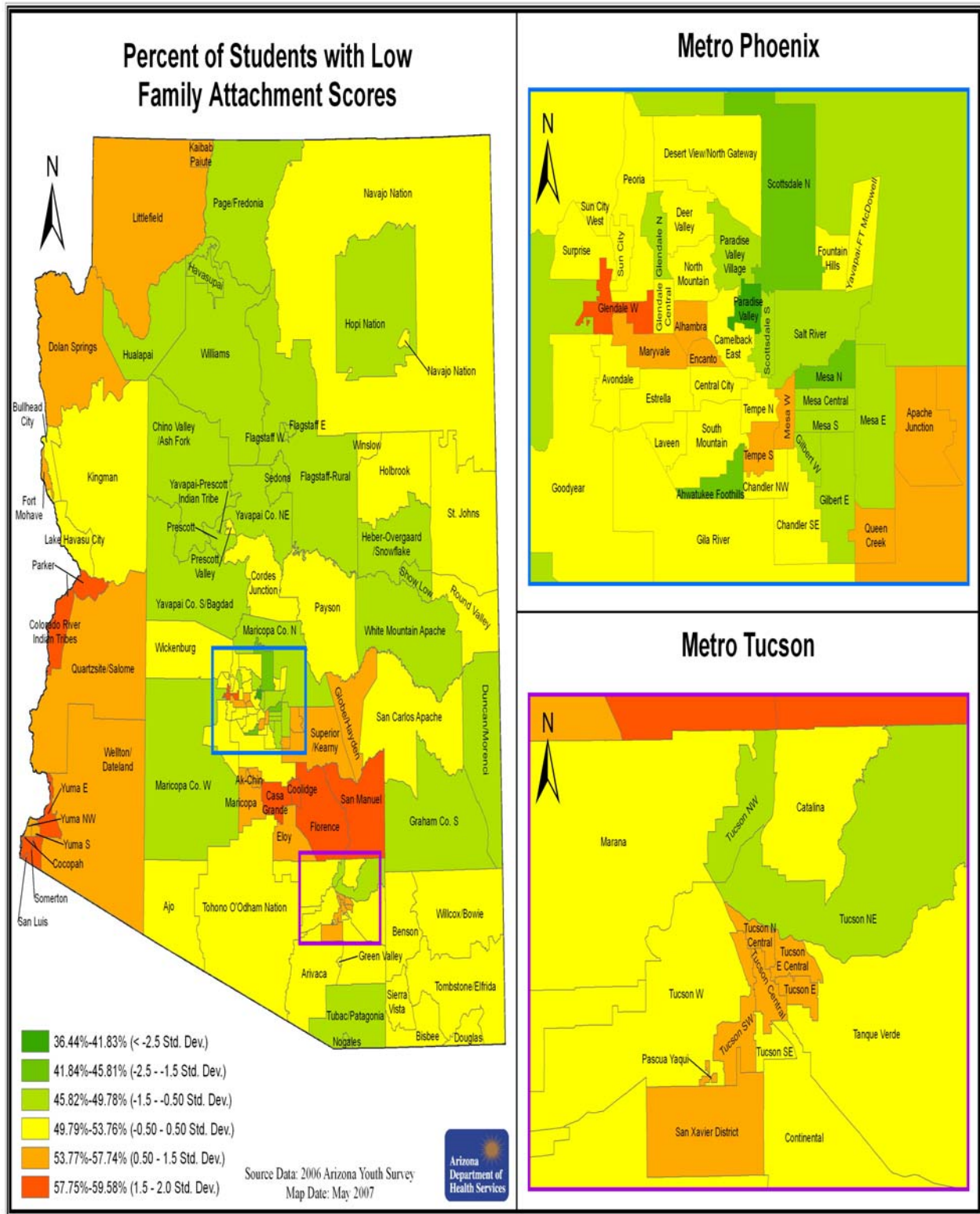
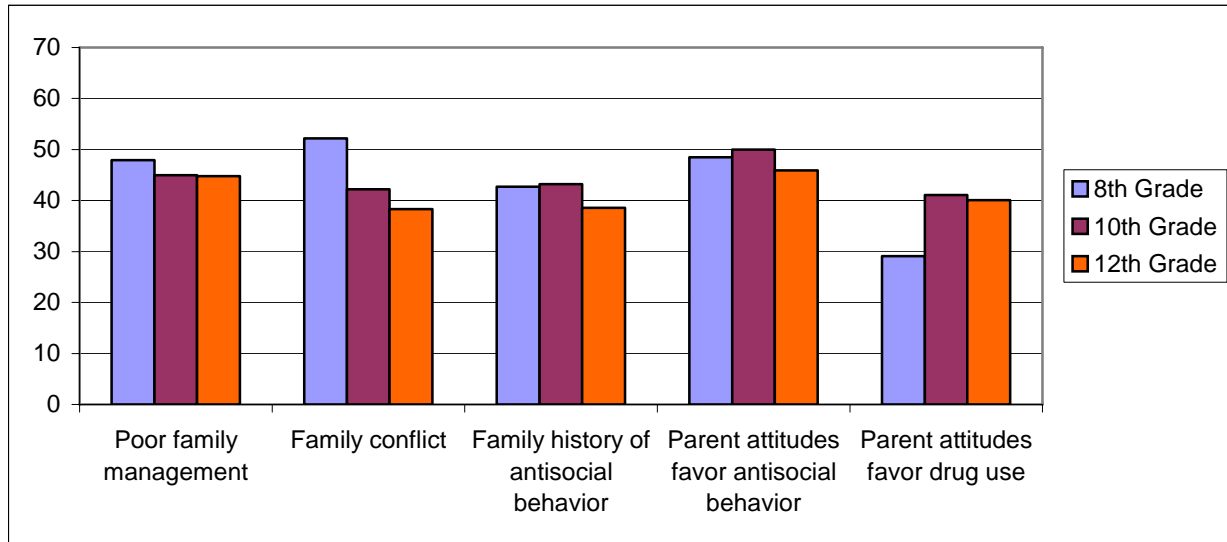


Table 5.2. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the Family Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Poor family management	47.90	45.00	44.80
Family conflict	52.20	42.20	38.30
Family history of antisocial behavior	42.70	43.20	38.60
Parent attitudes favor antisocial behavior	48.50	50.00	45.90
Parent attitudes favor drug use	29.10	41.10	40.10

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each risk factor.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Figure 5.2. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the Family Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

School Domain.

With the school risk factors, a higher percentage of 10th graders reported academic failure than did 8th or 12th grade students; with slightly over half reporting this academic risk factor. Additionally, a higher percentage of 12th graders reported a low commitment to school compared with 8th and 10th graders.

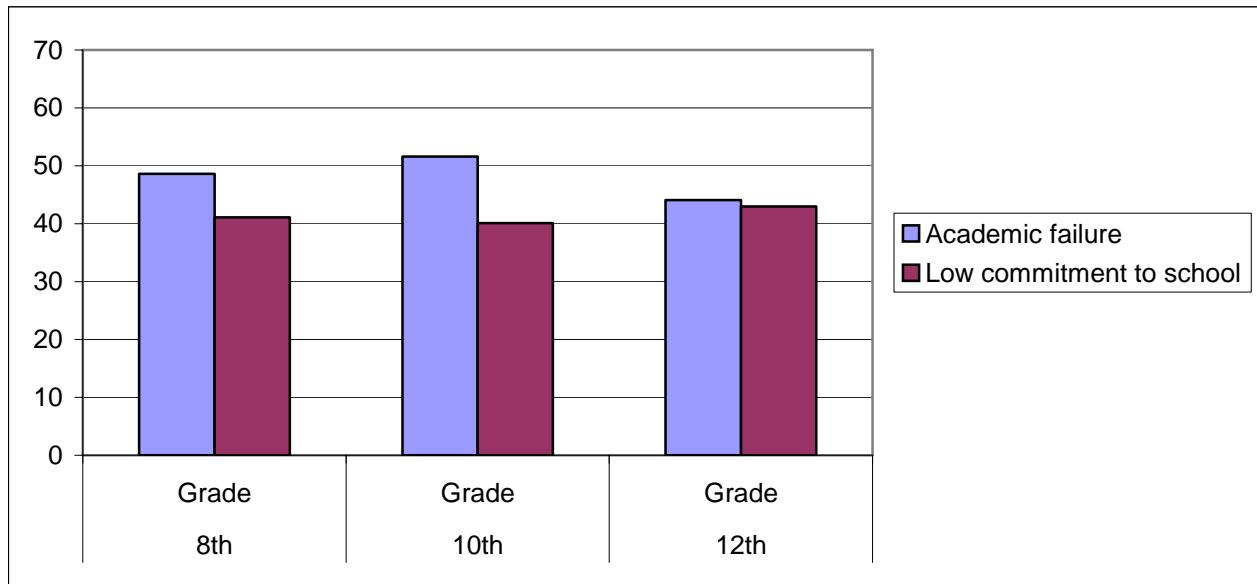
Table 5.3. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the School Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Academic failure	48.60	51.60	44.10
Low commitment to school	41.10	40.10	43.00

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each risk factor.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Figure 5.3. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the School Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.



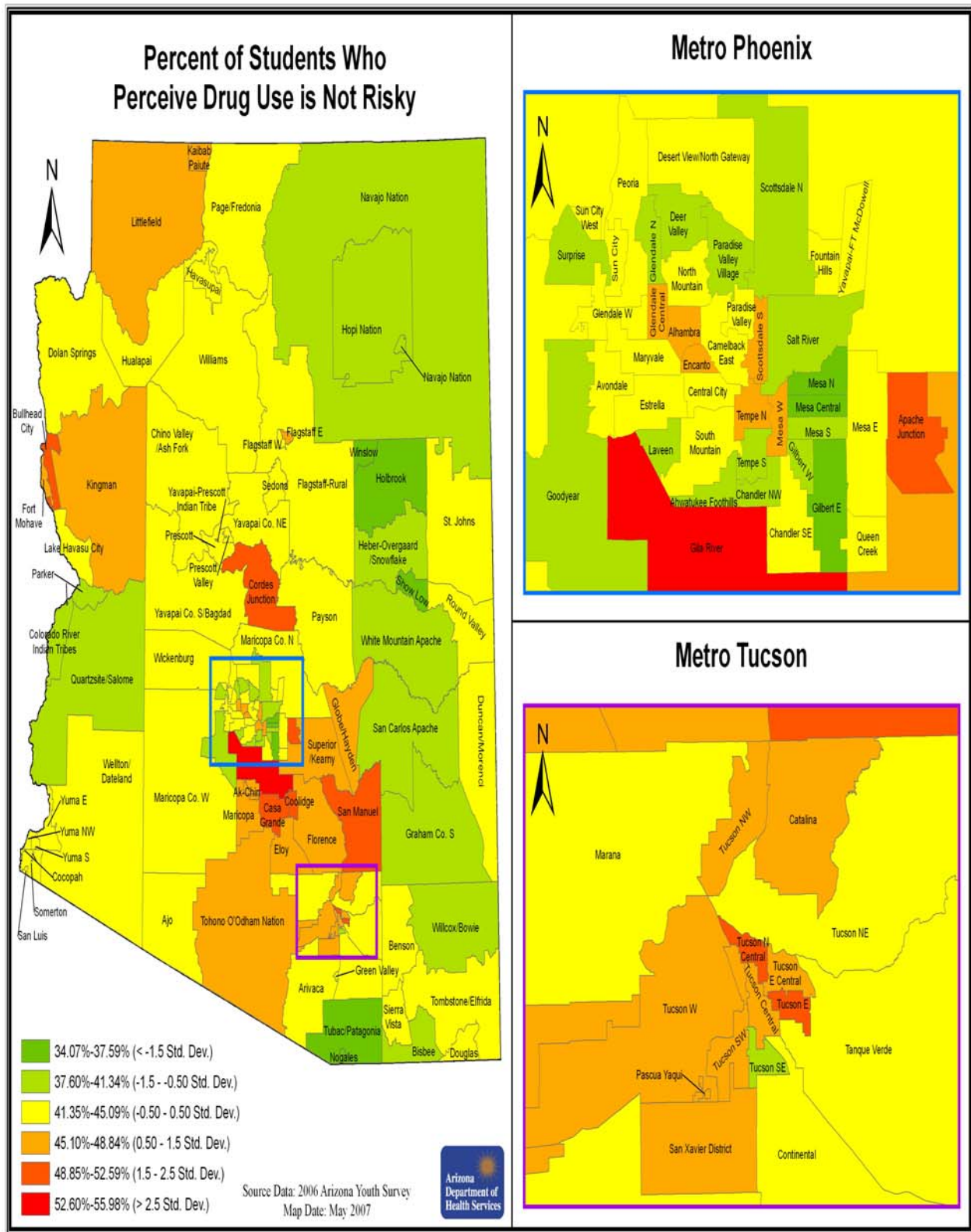
Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Peer/Individual.

As can be seen in Table 5.4, a higher percentage of 10th graders reported high levels of risk within the peer/individual domain. A higher percentage of these students reported rebelliousness, early initiation of antisocial behavior and drug use, and attitudes favorable to antisocial behavior and drug use; a higher percentage also reported drug use by their friends and their own intent to use drugs than did 8th and 12th graders. Eighth grade students reported four of these risk factors at higher percentages than their 10th and 12th grade peers: perceived risk of drug use; interactions with antisocial peers; depression; and gang involvement. A higher percentage of 12th graders reported rewards for antisocial behavior.

Overall, a higher percentage of students reported high levels of interaction with antisocial peers and rewards for antisocial behavior. Intervention efforts may be most effective if they stress interactions with peers who engage in healthy behaviors.

Map 5.4.



Map 5.5.

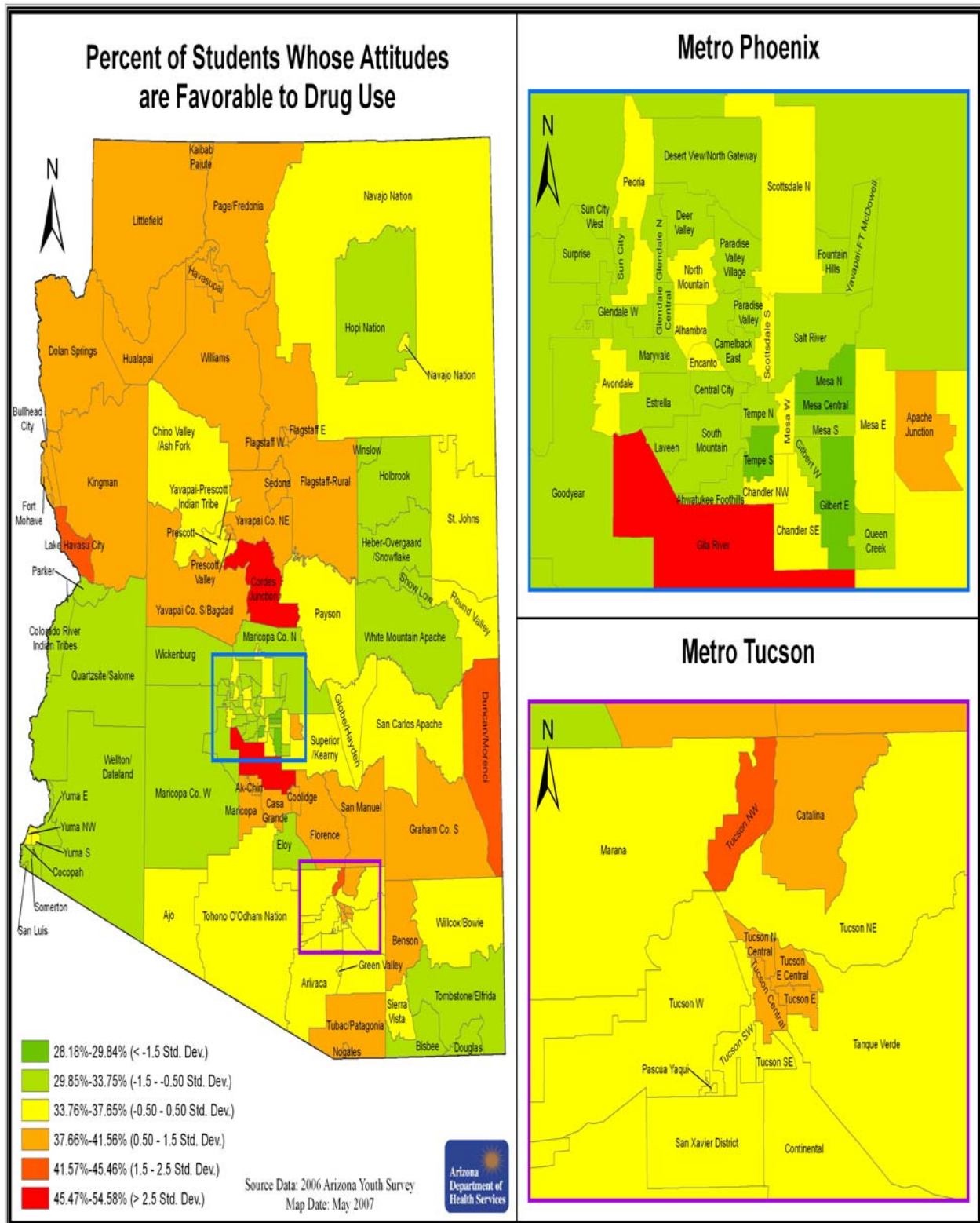
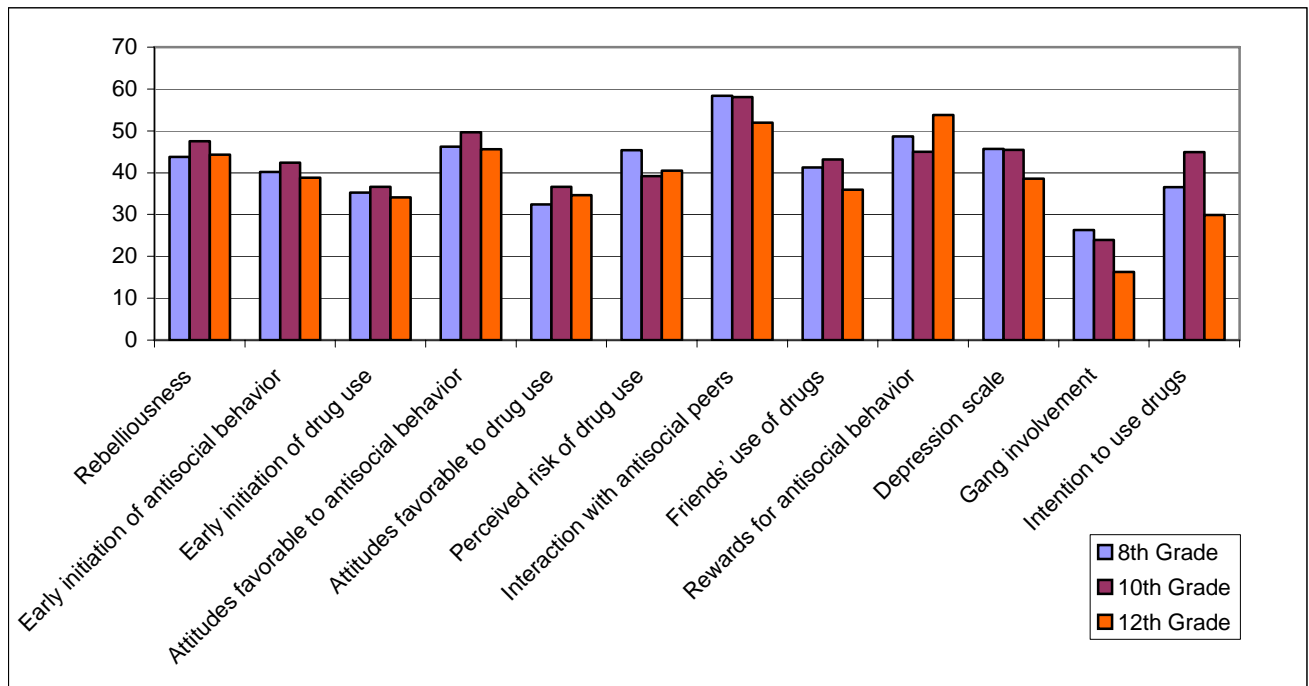


Table 5.4. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the Peer/Individual Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Rebelliousness	43.80	47.50	44.30
Early initiation of antisocial behavior	40.20	42.40	38.80
Early initiation of drug use	35.20	36.60	34.10
Attitudes favorable to antisocial behavior	46.20	49.70	45.60
Attitudes favorable to drug use	32.40	36.60	34.60
Perceived risk of drug use	45.40	39.20	40.50
Interaction with antisocial peers	58.40	58.10	52.00
Friends' use of drugs	41.30	43.20	35.90
Rewards for antisocial behavior	48.70	45.00	53.80
Depression scale	45.70	45.50	38.60
Gang involvement	26.30	23.90	16.30
Intention to use drugs	36.50	44.90	29.90

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each risk factor.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Figure 5.4. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Risk within the Peer/Individual Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Protective Factors

Community Domain.

A higher percentage of 8th graders reported that they had opportunities for prosocial involvement and a higher percentage of 10th graders reported that they were rewarded for prosocial involvement in their communities. Differences by grade for Community Domain protective factors were small; almost equal percentages reported the presence of these protective factors in their lives.

Finding: Overall, lower percentages of students reported high protection in this domain than reported high risk.

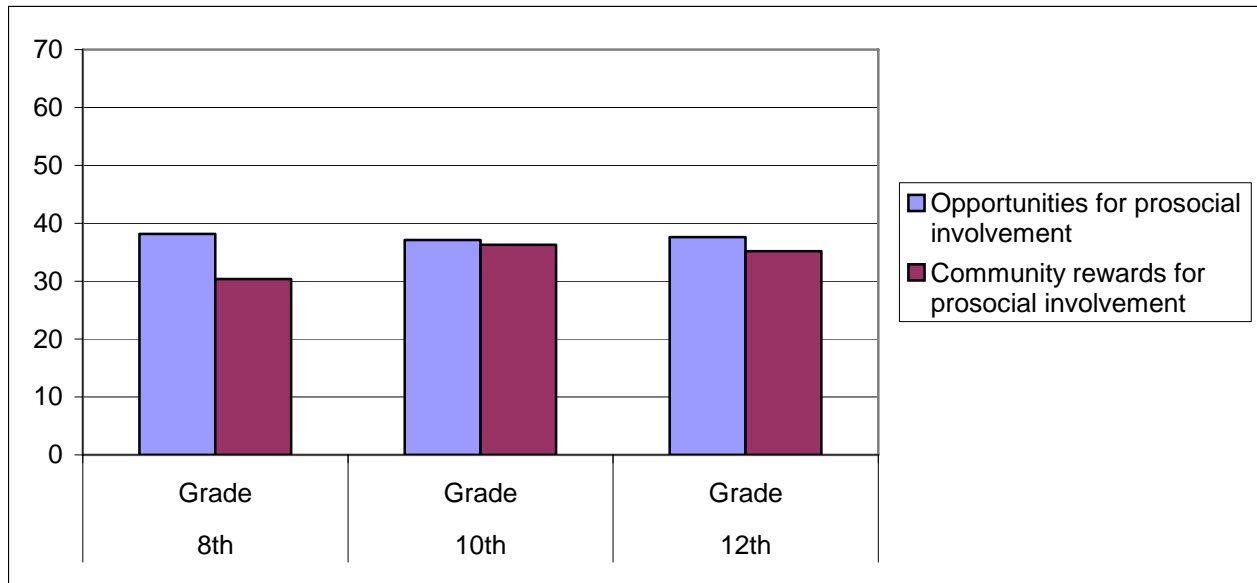
Table 5.5. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection within the Community Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Opportunities for prosocial involvement	38.20	37.10	37.60
Community rewards for prosocial involvement	30.40	36.30	35.20

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each protective factor.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Figure 5.5. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection within the Community Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.



Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Family Domain.

Within the family domain, a high percentage (almost 60%) of 12th graders reported family attachment, which was higher than 8th and 10th graders. Among 8th graders, a higher percentage reported family opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement than 10th or 12th graders. Large percentages of students reported high protection in most protective factors in this domain.

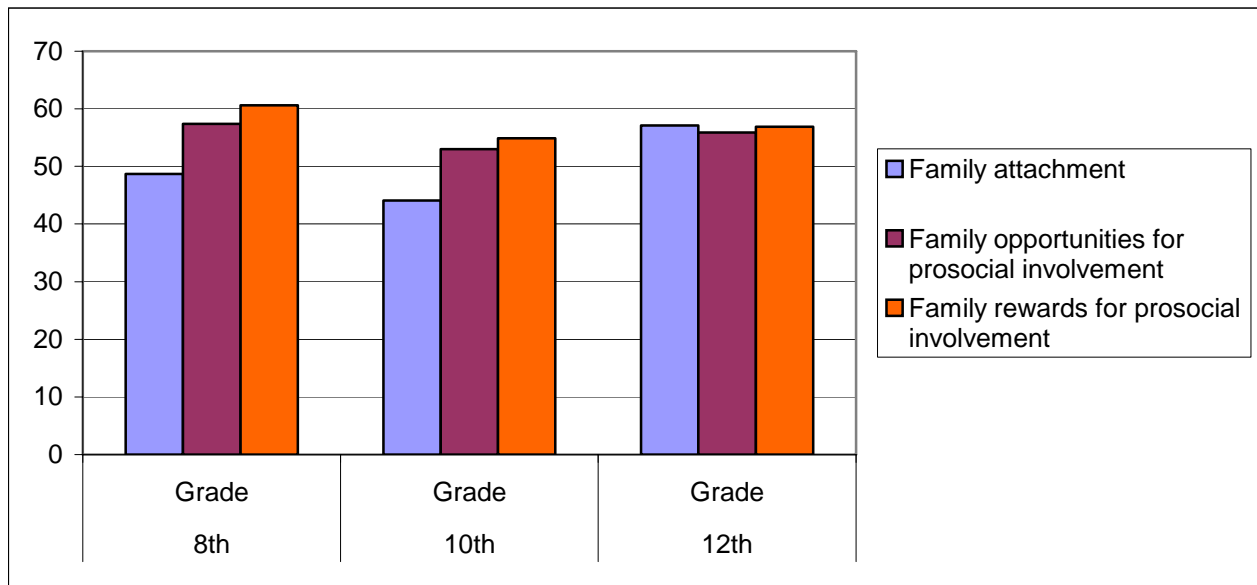
Table 5.6. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection within the Family Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Family attachment	48.70	44.10	57.10
Family opportunities for prosocial involvement	57.40	53.00	55.90
Family rewards for prosocial involvement	60.60	54.90	56.90

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each protective factor.

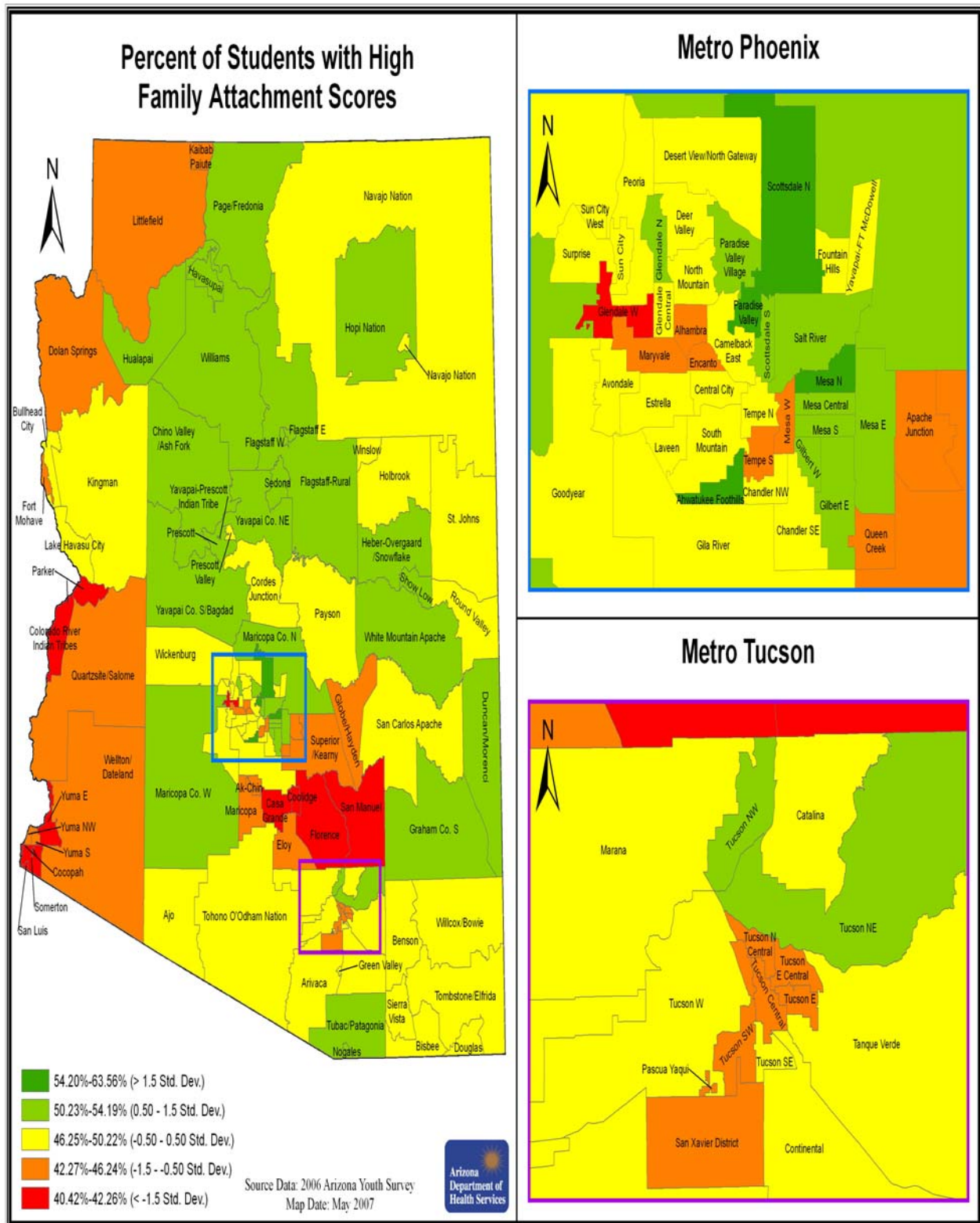
Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Figure 5.6. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection within the Family Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.



Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Map 5.6.



School Domain.

Within the school domain, large percentages of students reported opportunities and rewards for prosocial involvement; almost two-thirds of 12th graders reported opportunities for prosocial involvement in the school domain.

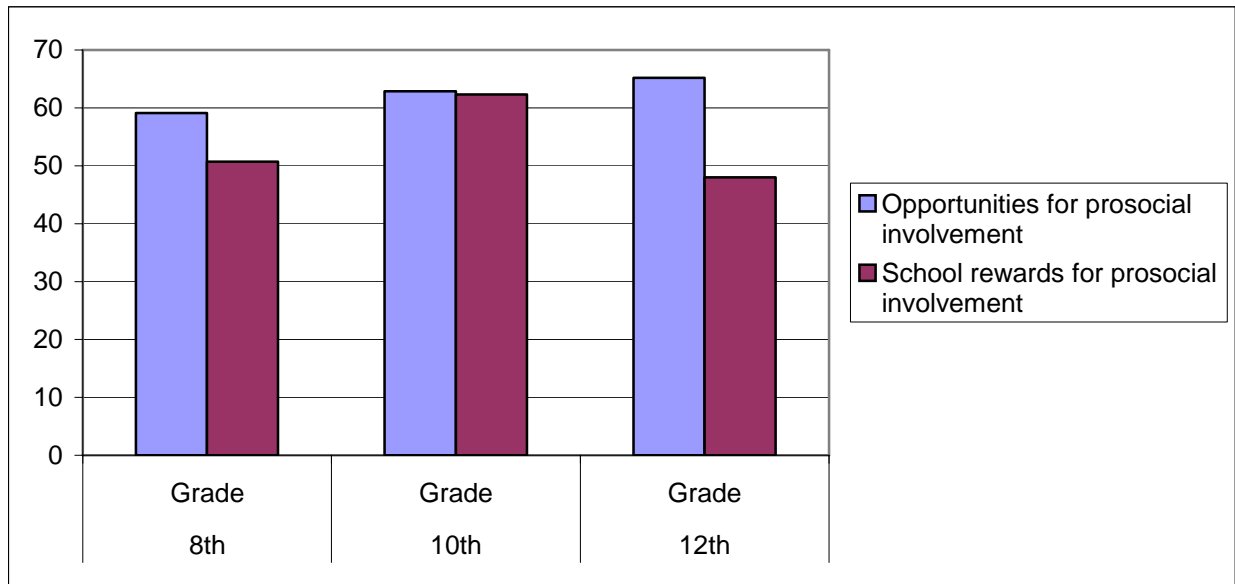
Table 5.7. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection within the School Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Opportunities for prosocial involvement	59.10	62.90	65.20
School rewards for prosocial involvement	50.70	62.30	48.00

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each protective factor.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Figure 5.7. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection within the School Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.



Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Peer/Individual.

Interestingly, a large difference between youth reporting high religiosity is found by grade level, with less than half of 8th and 10th grade students but 70% of 12th graders reporting high protection. A larger percentage of 12th grade students also reported social skills than did 8th and 10th graders.

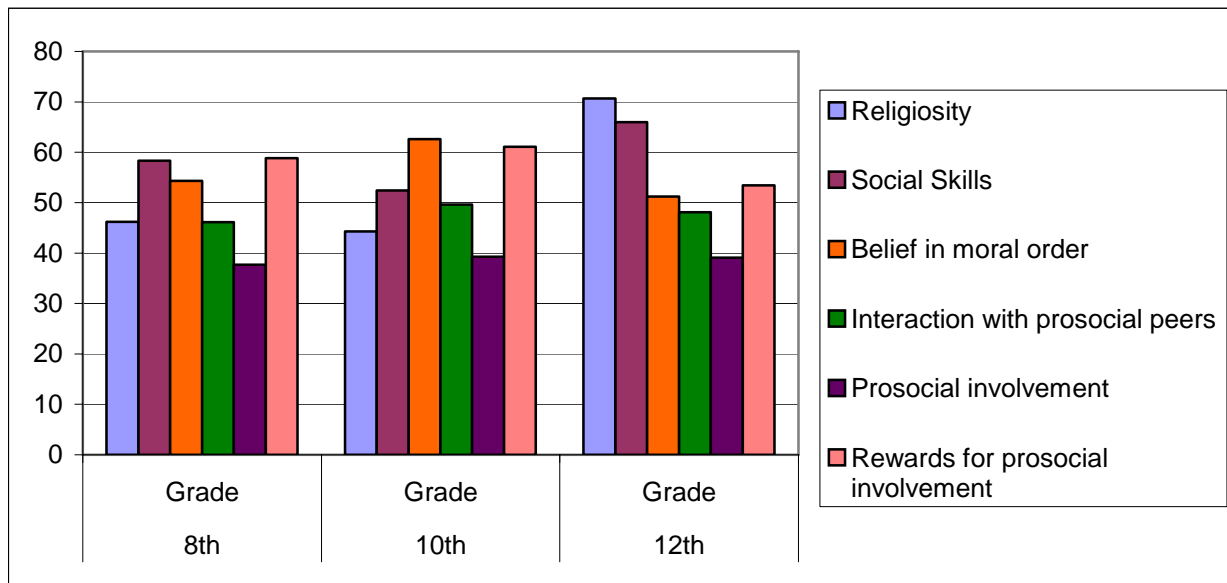
A higher percentage of 10th graders did report a belief in moral order, interaction with prosocial peers and prosocial involvement and rewards for such involvement.

Table 5.8. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection in the Peer/Individual Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006

	8 th Grade	10 th Grade	12 th Grade
Religiosity	46.20	44.30	70.70
Social Skills	58.30	52.40	66.00
Belief in moral order	54.30	62.60	51.20
Interaction with prosocial peers	46.10	49.60	48.10
Prosocial involvement	37.70	39.30	39.10
Rewards for prosocial involvement	58.80	61.10	53.40

Note. Percentages in bold indicate the grade reporting the highest percentage of students experiencing each protective factor.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Figure 5.8. Percentage of Youth Reporting High Protection within the Peer/Individual Domain, by Grade, Arizona, 2006.

Source: *Arizona Youth Survey: State Report, 2006*. Arizona Criminal Justice Commission.

Risk and Protective Factors Summary: Approximately half of students reported the following risk factors: community disorganization; transitions and mobility, indicating a high level of movement into and out of communities and possibly explaining the high percentage of students who reported low neighborhood attachment and community disorganization; family conflict (8th grade); parental attitudes favoring antisocial behavior; academic failure (10th grade); interaction with antisocial peers; and rewards for antisocial behavior (12th grade). In contrast, roughly half of students reported the following protective factors: family attachment (12th grade); family opportunities/rewards for prosocial involvement; religiosity (12th grade); social skills; and a belief in a moral order.